



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739  
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June 8, 2005

Victoria Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, Northwest, Suite 534  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Federal Agency: Surface Transportation Board ("STB")

Re: Notification of the STB's finding of "no historic properties affected" concerning the Indiana Rail Road Company's abandonment of a 2.44 mile section, between mileposts Q216.13 and Q217.69, of its Ellettsville Branch (Docket #AB 295 [Sub-no. 6X])

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated May 10, 2005, and received on May 13, 2005, for the above indicated project in Richland Township, Monroe County, Indiana.

As previously indicated, we have not identified any archaeological resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places within the probable area of potential effects. Additionally, we do not believe that there will be any alterations to the characteristics of the Samuel Harbison Farm or James Bratney House qualifying them for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register (see 36 C.F.R. § 800.16[i]).

Therefore, we see no reason to object to the STB's May 10, 2005, finding that no historic properties within the area of potential effects will be affected by the above indicated project. However, we have noted that the following documentation, as specified in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(d), was not been provided to support your finding:

- "A description of the steps taken to identify historic properties, including, as appropriate, efforts to seek information pursuant to §800.4(b)."

If you have not already done so, we recommend that you make complete documentation available to the public and all consulting parties for the above indicated project. We would welcome any additional documentation to be attached to the file. However, further coordination and comments from the Indiana SHPO will not be necessary.

This identification is subject to the project activities remaining within areas disturbed by previous construction.

If any archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In the event that artifacts or features are discovered during the implementation of the Federally assisted project, activity, or program and a plan has not been developed, it is the Federal agency's responsibility to make reasonable efforts to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.13.

If you have questions about our comments, please call our office at (317) 232-1646. Questions about archaeological issues should be directed to Dr. Rick Jones or Cathy Draeger. Questions about historic buildings or structures pertaining to this project should be directed to Shana Kelso.

Very truly yours,

*Shana Kelso*

for Jon C. Smith  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JCS: SNK:snk

cc: John Broadley, John H. Broadley & Associates

# EI-1555  
CG

AB 295-6X

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor  
Kyle J. Hupfer, Director

